

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 1, 1999

SENATE BILL

No. 204

Introduced by Senator Lewis

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Campbell)

**(Coauthors: Senators Dunn, Johannessen, Johnson, Knight,
Monteith, and Morrow)**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Ackerman, Bates, Baugh,
Brewer, House, Maddox, Maldonado, Margett, Robert
Pacheco, and Zettel)

January 20, 1999

An act relating to pest control, making an appropriation therefor, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 204, as amended, Lewis. Red imported fire ants.

Existing law generally provides for the control and eradication of pests ~~in the Food and Agricultural Code~~, as specified. Existing law also provides for the Red Imported Fire Ant Advisory Panel.

This bill would appropriate ~~\$~~ \$ ~~5,000,000~~ from the General Fund to the Department of Food and Agriculture Fund for the purpose of controlling and eradicating the infestation of the red imported fire ant in ~~Orange County~~ California.

The bill also would require the department, not later than January 2000, to report to the Legislature outlining its expenditures and setting forth its progress in eradicating the infestation of the red imported fire ant in the state.

The bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature hereby finds and
2 declares that the red imported fire ant is known for its
3 aggressive behavior and venomous bite, and can interfere
4 with outdoor activities, and threaten people as well as
5 animals and agriculture. Red imported fire ants have
6 been identified in six counties and are spreading rapidly,
7 with new mounds being discovered daily. To date, there
8 have been more than 32 deaths related to red imported
9 fire ants throughout the nation.

10 (b) Notwithstanding Section 7550.5 of the
11 Government Code, the Department of Food and
12 Agriculture, not later than January 1, 2000, shall report to
13 the Legislature outlining its expenditures and setting
14 forth its progress in eradicating the infestation of the red
15 imported fire ant in California.

16 SEC. 2. The amount of ~~_____ dollars (\$_____)~~
17 *five million dollars (\$5,000,000)* is hereby appropriated
18 from the General Fund to the Department of Food and
19 Agriculture Fund for the purpose of controlling and
20 eradicating the infestation of the red imported fire ant in
21 ~~Orange County~~ California.

22 SEC. 3. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the
23 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or
24 safety within the meaning of Article IV of the
25 Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts
26 constituting the necessity are:

27 In order to bring about the control and eradication of
28 the red imported fire ant at the earliest possible time, it
29 is necessary that this act take effect immediately.